

## Team ASAC

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## Mission Statement

Ramsey County Substance Abuse Court 's mission is to enhance public safety by reducing criminal activity and assist substance abusers to become drug and alcohol free, productive and law-abiding citizens.

## What ASAC Accomplishes

Provides participants with the support to lead substance and crime free lives  
Integrates community treatment and other services within the court system  
Collects restitution  
Reduces recidivism

## LOCATION

Court is held on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 131B, first floor of the Ramsey County Courthouse, Saint Paul, Minnesota.  
Judge Joanne Smith is the primary presiding judge.

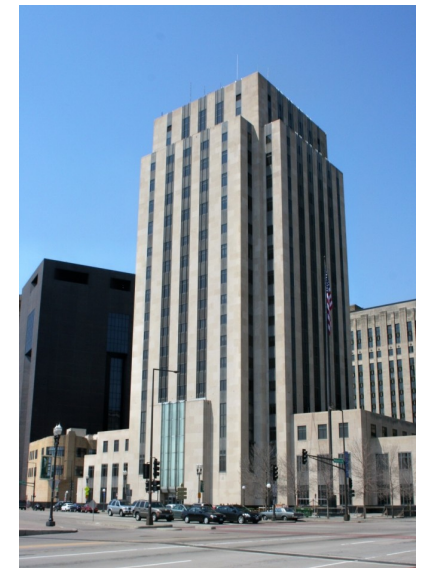
Visitors are welcome anytime.  
Please contact Heidi Heinzl, Program Coordinator at 651.266.9254 or heidi.heinzl@courts.state.mn.us



State of Minnesota

Photograph courtesy N. Eychaner, '08

# Ramsey County Adult Substance Abuse Court



Ramsey County Courthouse

15 West Kellogg Boulevard

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Telephone 651.266.9254

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# Therapeutic jurisprudence that results in change

## Ramsey County Adult Substance Abuse Court

represents a collaborative effort of criminal justice stakeholders working together to provide individuals the opportunity to change life circumstances, by intervening in the cycle of substance abuse and dependency.



**This is accomplished by** comprehensive assessment and treatment (chemical and mental health), intensive supervision, random drug and breath testing, regular court appearances and immediate sanctions and incentives.

**The program length is** 16-24 months and is divided into three major phases. Movement through phases is based on accomplishment of goals and requirements. Program components include (but not limited to) chemical dependency treatment, case management meetings, random drug testing, regular court appearances. Advancement through the phases will result in reduced responsibilities. A graduation ceremony will be held to celebrate completion of the program.

## Persons who suffer from co-occurring disorders

present additional challenges. In response, the Psychiatric Court Clinic (PCC) was established. The PCC provides screening and assessment, case planning, medication management and referral to community-based mental health agencies. It is staffed by a psychiatric doctor and nurse who coordinate their efforts with program case managers.

### STRUCTURE

The program is divided into four tracks:

**Track 1-Diversion:** Persons with non-violent first offense must make an admission of the underlying facts.

### Track 2—Deferred Prosecution:

Persons with some misdemeanor and/or minor non-violent felonies in their criminal record make an admission of guilt. The court reserves accepting the plea.

### Disposition for Tracks 1 & 2:

There is no finding of guilt and no conviction if the person successfully completes the program.

**Track 3—Probation:** A guilty plea is entered, the person is sentenced and the court includes ASAC as a condition of probation. Jail time is waived or deferred in most cases.

## Track 4—Probation Violation:

Probationers who are facing a revocation hearing with potential execution of jail or prison sentence in which continued alcohol and/or drug use is an issue.

## Disposition for Tracks 3 & 4:

Persons receive stayed sentences (stay of execution or imposition). Some jail time may be ordered, with early release to treatment. They may be eligible for early discharge from probation as well.

### ELIGIBILITY

Resident of Ramsey County

Charged with non-violent felony offense(s) with no prior violent felony convictions.

Substance abuse or addiction

Committed to recovery

“We all have big changes in our lives that are more or less second chances”

